

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6033
INFO CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0408

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SINGAPORE FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

TOKYO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND ADMIRAL WIESNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ID
SUBJECT: F-5S FOR INDONESIA

1. IN MEETING ON JANUARY 10, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY AND I WERE TOLD BY LT. GENERAL HASNAN HABIB, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ADMINISTRATION, GENERAL MURDANI, AND OTHER TOP MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES THAT THE GOI DEFINITELY WANTS TO BUY F-5S AND HOPES CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES FOR LOA CAN BE COMPLETED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. THEY EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE COST ESCALATION AND SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY TIME OF LOA IS DELAYED.

2. HABIB SAID PRESENT INDONESIAN F-86S ARE IN BAD SHAPE AND ARE SCHEDULED TO BE RETIRED BY THE END OF CALENDAR YEAR 1978.
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IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THEIR LIFE BY ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR, BUT THIS WOULD BE THE ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM. F-5S SHOULD BE PHASING IN BY THAT TIME TO PREVENT THE INTERNAL AS WELL AS REGIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM ANY SERIOUS DEROGATION OF INDONESIA'S AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY. REGARDING PRICE INCREASES, HABIB STRESSED THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO INDONESIA'S ARMED FORCES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED

AND SAID IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT TIME NECESSARY TO COMPLETE OUR COMPLETION OF REQUIRED PROCEDURES NOT REPEAT NOT RESULT IN PRICE INCREASES, AS HAD OCCURRED WITH THE EARLIER OV-10 PURCHASE

3. HABIB NOTED THAT THE INDONESIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, GENERAL NIKLANI, HAD BEEN TOLD BY GENERAL FISH OF DSAA THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PRICE INCREASE OR SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY SCHEDULES PROVIDED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WAS RECEIVED BY MARCH. OAKLEY SAID THAT WE EXPECTED REQUEST TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS SOON AFTER CONGRESS CONVENES. BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, WE EXPECTED APPROVAL BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. HABIB EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS, BUT ASKED IF SUBSEQUENT HANDLING OF LOA WITHIN DOD COULD NOT BE ACCELERATED TO REDUCE RISK OF COST RISE OR DELIVERY DELAY.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE HISTORY OF INDONESIA'S F-5 REQUEST AND THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO IT BY TOP GOI LEADERS (INCLUDING SUHARTO), I HOPE WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID ANY LAST-MINUTE HITCHES OR UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND THAT DOD PROCEDURES WILL BE EXPEDITED TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
MASTERS

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